

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

March 2, 1995

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We are thankful to Mr. Allan Thornton, Environment Investigation agency, London for his help and encouragement.

11. LARGE CORMORANT *PHALACROCORAX CARBO SINENSIS* (SHAW) BREEDING IN THE NILGIRIS

On September 17, 1994 while watching birds at the Glenmorgan headworks damsite (c. 1970 m above msl) at the precincts of Ooty town, I noticed small flocks of Large Cormorants flying to and fro regularly towards a certain part of the reservoir. All of them were in full breeding plumage with white flecks on head and neck, yellow gular pouches and white thigh patches. Suspecting them to breed there, I followed their path and was soon able to confirm my suspicions. There were some partially submerged dead trees in the reservoir and on them the birds had nested. I counted 42 nests and all had incubating birds. Close observation revealed that the brooding birds were being intermittently received by their mates. The total number of adult birds seen in the reservoir was around 130 and almost all were in breeding plumage. So it is quite possible that there is a second breeding colony somewhere near, probably elsewhere in the same reservoir. Earlier, as I walked downstream along the Pykara river, I had seen small numbers of these birds fishing in the calmer stretches. In addition, about 20 birds in

breeding plumage were noted from the Kamaraj Sagar dam, also situated at the Ooty environs. It seems that the species has fairly established itself and is evidently thriving at the high altitude lakes and reservoir in the Nilgiris.

The large cormorant is normally a denizen of lowland rivers, jheels, reservoirs, tidal lagoons and the like, but is also known to ascend up to considerable elevations in the lakes of Nepal, Ladakh and Kashmir (Handbook 1: 37-38). The species breeds in many localities throughout the country mainly at lowland jheels, though it is suspected to breed in the high lakes of Ladakh and Nepal (SYNOPSIS II Edition: 10-11). But there is no mention of its occurrence and breeding anywhere in the peninsular mountains. Hence this observation at 1970 metres in the Nilgiri mountains is noteworthy.

December 6, 1994

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12. RECORD OF THE PAINTED SPURFOWL, *GALLOPERDIX LUNULATA* (VALENCIENNES) IN RAMGARH SANCTUARY OF DISTRICT BUNDI, RAJASTHAN

Ali and Ripley (1983) in HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN mention that the painted spurfowl (*Galloperdix lunulata*) is not found in Rajasthan. Paul A. Johnsgard in his monumental work-*'The quails, partridges and francolins of the world'* also says that this bird is not found in Rajasthan (page 248). I wish to inform you that the bird has been photographed by me in the Ramgarh sanctuary of District Bundi, Rajasthan (Lat. 25° 27' N and Long. 75° 39' E) on

14.4.87. These birds (one pair) were regularly seen by me between 1985 and 1987. The birds frequented the ruins of the shikargah in the sanctuary and were surprisingly friendly.

November 7, 1994

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